# JAPA 141 **First Year Japanese I**

(3 Credits)


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| **Instructor:** | Naoko Ozaki, Ph.D. | **Office Hours:** | Mon and Wed 2:00 – 3:00p |
| **Office on Campus:** | 124 Rayzor Hall | | or by appointment |
| **Phone:** | 713-348-8203 | **E-mail:** | naoko.ozaki@rice.edu |


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| **Section 001** (CRN : 14114)<br>Mon, Wed, and Fri. 9:00 – 9:50am<br>Rayzor Hall 106 | **Section 002** (CRN : 14335)<br>Mon, Wed, and Fri. 10:00 – 10:50am<br>Rayzor Hall 106 |

**Required Books:**

- Genki I: An integrated course in elementary Japanese with a CD, 2nd edition, by Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, Japan Times (ISBN 9784789014403)
- Genki I Workbook with a CD, 2nd edition, by Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, Japan Times (ISBN 9784789014410)

**Other Materials Used:**

- Authentic, contextualized language data prepared by the instructor
  - *Students analyze the authentic video- and audio-data of conversations between native speakers of Japanese in order to develop linguistic and meta-linguistic awareness.*
  - *All or some parts of the transcript will be given depending on the activity.*
- Language samples collected by the students
  - *Students record their own conversations with local Japanese people in order to analyze the recorded data. The instruction is given in class.*
- Additional materials on Canvas (rice.edu/canvas)
  - Visit the course site on Canvas on a daily basis to find announcements, handouts, and other information.

**Course Description:**

- JAPA 141 "First Year Japanese I" is a 3-credit course for students who has had no prior knowledge of the Japanese language. Students will learn basic linguistic knowledge including the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing (all of hiragana, all of katakana, and 43 kanji characters). They will also acquire interactive skills from the beginning of the course.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate about familiar topics using basic linguistic and sociocultural understanding in culturally appropriate Japanese.
- Analyze samples of interactions between speakers of Japanese to gain in-depth awareness of the Japanese language usage.
- Begin to develop and apply critical thinking and analytical skills through reflecting their Japanese language study and the use of their first language simultaneously.

**Structure:**

- Students are expected to come to each class prepared to fully participate in activities and practice.
- The use of English is allowed only in a limited, purposeful manner. When studying the grammar patterns, the students and the instructor may use English however, they use **only Japanese** during the practice time.

**Grade Distribution**

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| Class attendance and performance | 15% |
| Assignments | 15% |
| Sakubun (essays) | 7% |
| Skit | 10% |
| Quizzes | 15% |
| Oral Exam | 8% |
| Exams (10% each) | 30% |

- I (incomplete) is only given to students whose work is satisfactory until the end of the semester but who can't complete the course due to illness or personal issues verified by the academic advisor.
- Students are also advised to keep all of the graded, returned assignments, quizzes, and exams. They become proof of grades as well as study guide for the following sections and exams.
- The overall and final grade will be assessed using the following scale:

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| A+ | 99-100% | B+ | 88-89% | C+ | 78-79% | D+ | 68-69% |
| A | 94-98% | B | 84-87% | C | 74-77% | D | 64-67% |
| A- | 90-93% | B- | 80-83% | C- | 70-73% | D- | 60-63% |

**Class Attendance and Performance:**

- Students are expected to be active, autonomous learners. This means that students need to come to class prepared and participate in class. Participation contributes to the learning, and it is required to earn full points for the day. Simply attending class will lead to a low performance grade.

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| 4 points | Well-prepared, excellent performance |
| 3 points | Passing performance |
| 2 points | Evidence of being prepared but not at a satisfactory level |
| 1 point | Present, but not prepared |
| 0 point | Absent |

- Only medical absences and university-sponsored events such as athletes' scheduled games will be excused. It is each student's responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the scheduled event via e-mail.
- Being late, leaving early, or leaving during the class lowers the performance grade.
- Failing to pay full attention to the class, such as sleeping, doing homework, studying other subjects, or chatting with classmates, will lead to a lower performance grade.
- **Absolutely NO electronic device use** in class. Using electronic device will automatically lower performance grade by 75% for the day.
- Only three missed class sessions are excused (excused absence) without penalty.
- In case of emergency, the student needs to contact the instructor as soon as s/he can.

**Assignments:**

- All assignments, unless specified, are due at the beginning of each class session. Late assignments are only accepted before or at the beginning of the next class session and will be deducted 10% of the total points possible. Assignments submitted later than the following class session will receive feedback but are not credited unless there are medical or school-related excuses for late submission. If students come to class late, the submission is considered late.
- Students are to do their own assignments on a piece of paper (not in the workbook) --- in neat handwriting and in pencil. No typed assignments are accepted unless specified.
- There will be assignments of interactional practice that the students need to record. Detailed instructions will be given during the semester.

**Sakubun:**

- There will be two sakubun (essay) writing assignments. The first one will receive feedback from the instructor and receive grades for completion. The second one will be graded.

**Skit:**

- Students will be assigned to a group to create a skit in Japanese and present it in class.
- Students will not receive full credit unless they are active participants in all of the group activities including, but not limited to, skit writing/revisions, performance practice, and presentation.
- Detailed instruction and guidelines will be announced in class.

**Exam and Quizzes:**

- Each exam is approximately 50 minutes in length.
- Make-up exams are only given for medical emergencies.
- In case of school-related excused absences, it is the student's responsibility to talk with the instructor in advance to request an opportunity to take the exam prior to the scheduled date.
- There will be two oral exams. The first one will receive feedback from the instructor and receive grades for completion. The second one will be graded.
- There are at least three quizzes for each chapter. There may be pop-quizzes during the course. The three lowest quiz scores are to be dropped at the end of the semester. There will be **NO** make-up quizzes. Missed quizzes (excused or not) are counted as the three lowest quizzes.

**Language practice beyond the classroom**

- Language Table – Students are encouraged to attend "Language Table" to speak with Japanese speakers in Japanese over lunch. The schedule will be given at the beginning of the semester.
- Tutors – Students should visit the tutors on a regular basis to improve Japanese speaking skills.
- Ocha o shimasenkai – 30-minute tea time provides students with an opportunity to speak Japanese in a relaxed atmosphere. Details will be given at the beginning of the semester.

**Class Policies**

- NO food or gum in class unless there is permission from the instructor in advance. This is a language class, and students are often expected to speak. Drinks are allowed as long as they are in a bottle or there is a lid.
- Students are expected to put cell phones on a silent mode before class starts.
- Students are expected to communicate with the instructor in Japanese as much as possible outside the classroom. Writing an e-mail, for example, is an excellent opportunity to practice writing polite messages.
- It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor, at least two weeks in advance, of any events including, but not limited to, religious holidays or athletic events, that may lead to absence or to a missed exam.
- If the student wants to ask for a recommendation letter, the request needs to be

**University Policies**

**Rice Honor Code:**

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

**Disability Support Services:**

- If a student has a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance s/he should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / 713-348-5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with the instructor to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

* If a student would like to request a recommendation letter, s/he needs to e-mail the instructor at least one month in advance to place a request.